

February 10, 1964

Dr. Harry A. Waisman
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1300 University Avenue
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Harry:

This is in answer to your note around New Years.

I can certainly understand your exasperation with a merely methodological problem. If a better assay for phenylalanine is really not terribly important you shouldn't waste your time on it. Does Guthrie's procedure really work?

More important, the emphasis of screening should be shifted to the detection of heterozygous mothers. Any prospects?

With *B. globigii* I had in mind a liquid culture technique and think there may still be some prospects of pushing sensitivity with a fluorometric assay for some bacterial enzymes. If anything more actually materializes on just this, I'll let you know.

Many thanks for your good offices with Vital Statistics. It's hard to know whether anything significant will come out of this kind of epidemiology, but at least Pasamanick's notions ought to be put to rest if not confirmed--they do keep coming up in the most unlikely places, like a book on the Mayans I was reading a while ago.

Best wishes,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

WAISMAN, H.A.